

expect to get a great part of the wheat for Certificates provided July 26 they may be discounted out of the last Ten pound Assessment as well as that payable in November next. the people here have not yet paid the first for the want of a Collector, the sheriff refused to Act as he did not get the Law in time and the Commissioners have not got the Law of last Session Impowering them to appoint a Collector. I am at a loss what price to allow for wheat, those who have it for Sale expect the price fixed by the supplement to the Act for the assessment of property & am willing to take it, shall be much Obligated for direction.

I have Contracted with some Gentlemen living on the Way for Wheat who say they Can only deliver it at their Landings, and as there is no place there Convenient to Store it or Mills to Grind it, wish to know if I may engage a Vessell to take it off & what place to send it to. twould be very inconvenient to bring it around to Patuxent. Col^o Fitzhugh has offered to take off what wheat I may purchase convenient to any Landing on Patuxent, carry it to his Mill freight free, grind for the Common Toll of 78^{ll} part Bulk and pack for half the Bran, & furnish Flour Barrells at eight Dollars each, He will also Bake if required at £12. 7p C^t & find Broad Barrells at Ten dollars each. I think twill be much more advantageous to have the wheat manufacturd than to Store it and shall contract with the Colonel to Grind Bolt & pack it unless directed to the Contrary.

I expect to have a Quantity ready in a week or fortnight from this & more in a Short time after. Will take care to give information from time to time as requires & be assured that my Endeavours shall not be wanting to Carry the purposes of the Acts of Assembly fully into execution.

[Henry Hooper, Dorchester County, to His Excellency The July 26
governor and council.]

Sir I would begg Leave to inform your Excellency that there are several small Tory-Boats cruising in Hoopers Streights and Tangier Sound they are daily taking some of our Craft am informed that they plunder our Islands of Cattle and Sheep I have sent Capt Smoot with a Party of Militia in quest of these Banditti but from the Want of a proper Boat I am apprehensive he will not be able to effect anything; Wicomico and Nanticoke Rivers are intirely block'd up by these Pickaroons. If your Excellency would be pleased to dispatch one of the State Boats to Hooper's Streights to Act in Consort with Cap^t Smoot I think they may probably capture some of these Pirates.

If there should be any swivel Guns and Ball at Annapolis you could Spare I should be glad your Excellency would be pleased to order about four of them with some Ball to be sent over in my Boat which carries the Soldiers to Annapolis I think by arming a Boat with there swivels when ever there might be Occasion that we may be able in some measure to keep our Coast clear of these pirates One